

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 5 DECEMBER 2002**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)  
Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)  
Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist)  
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)  
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)  
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)  
Kevin Mooney (Designee of Nancy Thornton, Director of DEM Division of Waterways)  
Richard Murray (Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)  
Joseph Pelczarski (Designee of Thomas Skinner, Director of Coastal Zone Management)  
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)  
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**PROCEEDINGS:**

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone at 1:30 PM on 5 December 2002 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

**1. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of 26 September 2002**

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 26 September 2002. Ed Bell noted that there was a typographical error on line one under the heading of MEMBERS PRESENT in which the “al” was omitted from the end of the word “Historical”.

Ed Bell moved to accept the minutes of the 26 September 2002 public meeting as amended. Joe Pelczarski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**2. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**A. Election of Board Officers**

Victor stated that the Board annually elects its two officers, Director and Deputy Director. In 2002, Victor Mastone served as Director and David Trubey served as Deputy Director. Victor suggested that the Board consider nominating its staff for these positions to facilitate administration. Victor asked the Board members for nominations.

Lenny Loparto nominated Victor Mastone for the position of Director. Dick Murray seconded the nomination. Lenny Loparto nominated David Trubey for the position of Deputy Director. Dick Murray seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

John Hoagland moved to elect Victor Mastone as Director and David Trubey as Deputy Director of the Board for 2003. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**B. 2002 Schedule of Meetings**

Victor proposed a continuation of the bi-monthly schedule of regular public meetings in 2003. He noted that this would not preclude the Board from holding additional public meetings if there were a need for them. In addition, he asked the Board to consider not scheduling a meeting in July, as it is difficult achieving a quorum in the summer months. Victor proposed scheduling meetings for 30 January, 27 March, 29 May, 25 September and 4 December, as the last Thursday of November is Thanksgiving.

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Victor asked the Board members if they wanted to consider changing the regular meeting day and time from the afternoon of the last Thursday of the month to an alternative day and time. No schedule changes were proposed.

Dick Murray moved to adopt the dates of 30 January, 27 March, 29 May, 25 September and 4 December as the Board's schedule of public meetings for 2003. John Hoagland seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**C. *International Handbook of Maritime Archaeology***

Victor reported that the *International Handbook of Maritime Archaeology*, in which he authored Chapter 4 regarding underwater archaeology in Massachusetts, is now in circulation. He stated that the Board will acquire a copy of the work for its library. Ed Bell asked Victor if he would furnish the Massachusetts Historical Commission with the bibliographic information for the book. Victor agreed to do so.

**D. Bay State Council of Divers**

Victor reported that he attended the November meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers. The Bay State Council is the coordinating group of the organized diving community in Massachusetts. He reminded the Board that both John Hoagland and Marcie Bilinski are members. The Council is currently working on an artificial reef program and related surveys. He noted that the Council had some issues regarding beach and boat ramp access and that he would discuss the issue with Richard Murray following the meeting.

**3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Terry French reported that he received an invitation to the opening of Dr. Robert Ballard's recent film produced by the National Geographic Society regarding the discovery of PT-109. As he was unable to attend, he asked the Board if any members had an opportunity to attend. Marcie Bilinski responded that she also received an invitation, but was unable to attend due to a conflict in her schedule. Brendan Foley stated that he attended the event and reported that it was typical of a National Geographic film in its format and style. Brendan added that the comments of the skipper of PT-105, who was a guest speaker at the event, added a lot to the presentation.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH**

**A. Archaeology Week 2002**

Victor reported that the Board's Archaeology week exhibit at the Scituate Historical Society Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum was a tremendous success. The exhibit, which was co-sponsored by the Scituate Historical Society, depicted the technology utilized in locating shipwreck sites and included a side scan sonar tow fish, marine survey software, and images from the MIT deep water archaeology program. David Trubey reported that the event drew approximately 130 people during the course of the day. The exhibit also featured images, artifacts, and new information from the recently rediscovered *Portland* site. He noted that, according to volunteers of the Society, this event might have set a record for the largest number of visitors to the museum during a single day.

**B. Massachusetts Archaeological Society**

Victor reported that he gave a presentation to the Northeast Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The presentation focused on the work of the Board and marine archaeology in the Commonwealth. The discussion was very well received by the approximately 40 people in attendance.

**C. MIT Deep Water Archaeological Research Seminar**

Victor reported that he presented a lecture at MIT's Deep Water Archaeological Research Seminar on October 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that attendance was a bit lighter than usual for this series due in large part to the torrential rain on that day. Nevertheless, Victor felt it was a great opportunity to present to this seminar group, of which he has been a regular participant, some of the projects with which the Board is involved and some of the issues affecting this work.

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**D. Boston Sea Rovers**

Victor informed the Board that he and a colleague, Dr. Susan Langley of Maryland, have been invited to speak at the Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic in March 2003 as part of a discussion on the development of avocational archaeology programs. Victor and his colleague will be joined by two avocational archaeologists as discussants. He noted that the Sea Rovers organization seems to be moving away somewhat from the technical aspects of diving and looking more closely at the research and fieldwork applications. He hopes that this emphasis will help promote the involvement of archaeologists in the organization.

**E. Society for Historical Archaeology Conference**

Victor reminded the Board that the Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) 36 Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology would be held on January 14-19, 2003 in Providence, RI. He noted that he would be co-chairing the underwater program with Dr. Susan Langley of Maryland and would also be co-chairing the Annual International Underwater Resource Managers' Forum with Chris Amer of the South Carolina Institute Archaeology and of Anthropology. This year's forum is entitled Government Maritime Managers' Forum XII: Hard Up in a Clinch and No Knife to Cut the Seizing. The Board is co-sponsoring the conference and will have table space, which it opted to give to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. John Hoagland asked if there would be any money available for Board members to attend. Victor responded that he is still checking on the availability of funds, but that given the Commonwealth's current fiscal crisis, it is unlikely that money would be available. Ed Bell suggested that members who want to attend, could register as a guest of an SHA member and as such, attend the conference at a reduced rate.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. William Bradbury**

Victor reported that Mr. William Bradbury had submitted his Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Mr. Bradbury was in attendance to present his application.

Mr. Bradbury stated that the past season was not especially productive as far as fieldwork was concerned. He stated that mechanical problems with his boat prevented him from putting a diver in the water. However, he was able to continue with his research. Victor asked Mr. Bradbury if he plans to get back in the field in the spring. Mr. Bradbury stated that he does plan to get back in the field, but that he needs to modify his search strategy and would like to hire a project manager. Victor asked if he would be going to St. Johns in the coming year to continue research. Mr. Bradbury stated that he has no plans at this time to return to St. Johns as he is focusing his research effort on identifying place names related to the travel of the vessel for which he is searching. He referred the Board to documents he obtained during the course of the year.

For the benefit of the new members, Victor summarized the research that Mr. Bradbury has conducted since initially receiving his permit. Acknowledging that it can be a difficult task for someone who is not trained in history, Victor stated that he would like to have Mr. Bradbury formally articulate his argument that the vessel for which he is searching ended up in the vicinity of his permit area. He noted that the Board could provide some assistance in synthesizing his research to date and writing a narrative.

Ed Bell asked Mr. Bradbury where he located the documents concerning the names of places that the vessel had been. Mr. Bradbury responded that he has been collecting material relating to shipwrecks in general since he was a young man, but that he was not sure of the exact sources of all the information he presented with his renewal application because it had been obtained some time ago. Ed Bell suggested that Mr. Bradbury try to reference his research more carefully in the future.

Terry French asked Mr. Bradbury where he obtained the Kennedy and Willis documents. Mr. Bradbury responded that he believed they came from newspapers obtained through the Canadian public library system. He added that all of the information he has presented was obtained from public sources of one sort or another. Terry French suggested that Mr. Bradbury visit the Massachusetts State Archives where there are records that document the changes in names of places in Maine and the Maritime Provinces that occurred following the American Revolutionary War. Mr. Bradbury acknowledged this suggestion and added he also plans take another look at the nautical charts in the collection

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of the Peabody-Essex Museum in the near future. Brendan Foley suggested that Mr. Bradbury also consult the Harvard Map Collection, which has some of the earliest maps and nautical charts and is open to the public.

Mr. Bradbury stated that when he gets back into the field, he would investigate some of the larger targets that he detected in previous seasons. He stated that the smaller targets detected earlier are likely false.

Brendan Foley asked Mr. Bradbury what kind of equipment he is using in his survey work. Mr. Bradbury responded that he is currently using a Hummingbird fish finder that has been modified to carry a four-head crystal array set at a 45° angle.

Brendan Foley moved to renew the Reconnaissance Permit held by William Bradbury for his Gloucester (Annisquam) site with all standard conditions in effect. Richard Murray seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**B. Dietlin and Rine**

Victor reported that Joseph Dietlin and Duane Rine had submitted their Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Mr. Dietlin and Mr. Rine were present to represent their permit.

Mr. Dietlin provided the Board with an additional chart and aerial photographs showing the project area and the sections that have been surveyed since last year's report. He stated that he and Mr. Rine are concentrating on an area off of Gooseberry Island, in which their research suggests considerable erosion has occurred. This erosion has resulted in a major change in water depth from the time period in which the vessel was lost.

At the request of Brendan Foley, Mr. Dietlin provided the new Board members with a brief history of the vessel for which they are searching and described the fieldwork and research conducted to date. Mr. Dietlin added that much of what they know regarding the ship and its loss has been submitted to the Board in previous reports under the requirements of a previously held permit. He asked the Board if he should continue to submit this information every year. Victor responded that by practice, information submitted in earlier reports are incorporated into the permit file and are available for Board members to review. Therefore it is not necessary to submit the same documents each time the permit is up for renewal.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Dietlin and Mr. Rine how they assign locations to their search grids such as those depicted on the charts. Mr. Dietlin responded that much of this information is obtained through triangulation and the recording of latitude and longitude through both GPS and LORAN. In order to overcome the inherent inaccuracies of such a system, they incorporated a large degree of overlap when preparing the grids. Lenny asked Mr. Dietlin how they acquire locations for particular artifacts. Mr. Dietlin responded that the artifacts are also mapped using triangulation, compass bearings, GPS and LORAN. Lenny suggested that it might be beneficial to the project if they created a synthesis chart that tied in all the artifact locations for all years of fieldwork. Such a chart could be useful in establishing drift patterns, energy zones and areas of high artifact concentrations. Mr. Dietlin acknowledged this suggestion, noting that the bottom characteristics of their permit area are constantly changing due to storms. He added that they routinely return to areas that have already been searched in order to document any changes in the environment.

Referring to an area off of Gooseberry Island on which he and Mr. Rine are concentrating their efforts, Mr. Dietlin explained that water depth has changed at a different rate than that of other areas. He noted that they have discovered artifacts in the area including copper sheathing and that a fisherman recovered porcelain shards dating to the 1790s. Although he and Mr. Rine have not found anything conclusive, the artifacts and their research suggests to them that they are getting very close. Mr. Dietlin feels strongly that the wreck is located in the area, but that they may have missed it due to the deep sand overburden. He added that the entire search process has been extremely time consuming in that there is a tremendous amount of modern debris in the area. He estimated that 99 percent of the targets detected proved to be such modern debris, hence the search is largely a process of elimination.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Dietlin if, given the early date of the vessel for which they are searching, there might be something unique about the copper sheathing from this vessel that could distinguish it from that of later vessels. Mr. Dietlin responded that analysis of the copper could possibly yield information regarding its date of origin. He noted that the copper sheathing they recovered has a relatively large silver content not found in the copper produced in more recent

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time periods. Lenny stated that there are several researchers, some of whom are at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, that have worked with copper recovered from Native American sites and suggested that Mr. Dietlin and Mr. Rine may want to contact them. Brendan Foley stated that Paul Revere was one of the earliest to produce rolled copper in America, but he did not think that he was producing it as early as 1791. Brendan suggested that the copper for this vessel might not have been produced in America. Mr. Dietlin stated that they do know where the copper came from, but that he would have to consult his research.

Referring to the Annual Report, Brendan asked Mr. Dietlin whom they contacted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for assistance with the project. Mr. Dietlin stated that they had contacted Justin Hanley, but that he has since taken a job with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, DC. He added that Mr. Hanley had offered last spring to conduct some engineering trials at the site with new remote sensing equipment. However, at that time they were not sure of the location and therefore decided to postpone the work until a later date.

Mr. Dietlin stated that he believes the last time any significant portion of the ship was exposed was probably the Blizzard of '78 and that since that time it seems to have disappeared under the sand. He noted that this is a positive thing as far as they are concerned in that the wreck should be in a better state of preservation.

Lenny Loparto moved to renew the Reconnaissance Permit (00-003) held by Joseph Dietlin and Duane Rine for their Salem site with all standard conditions in effect. Joseph Pelczarski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**C. Neil Good**

Victor reminded the Board that the Reconnaissance Permit (00-002) held by Mr. Neil Good was set to expire on 26 October 2002. As there were no meetings scheduled for October and November 2002, the Board voted to extend the permit until the next public meeting on 5 December 2002. Victor stated that Mr. Good has since contacted the Board and requested that it consider extending his permit until the public meeting of January 2003 due to personal reasons.

Victor stated that he certainly does not want to see the Board get into the habit of extending permits, but that he sees no harm in extending this permit until the January 2003 meeting so that Mr. Good can prepare a more detailed report given the wide range of resources that may be located within his permit area.

Kevin Mooney reminded the Board that Mr. Good's permit renewal application was due in October and stated that he should have been working on it before that time. Victor responded that although he recognizes Kevin's concern that permittees need adhere to the Board's schedule, he did not want to give detailed reasons as to why this application was not submitted on time. Victor stated that he is not suggesting the Board renew Mr. Good's permit at this time, only that it extend the permit until January, at which time it would make a decision regarding renewal. Victor noted, that an extension granted today would technically count as the first extension. The extension granted in September was an administrative extension based on the fact that there were no meetings scheduled in October or November. He added that the concern regarding Mr. Good's failure to submit a renewal application in October could be expressed in a letter as a formal sense of the Board, but given the circumstances of Mr. Good's request for an extension, it should be granted.

Ed Bell suggested that the letter should contain the concerns that were brought up at the last meeting regarding the punctuality of Mr. Good in submitting his permit related paperwork. David Trubey stated that Mr. Good is aware of this concern as it was stated in the minutes of the September meeting, which Mr. Good received and read. David added that Mr. Good is planning to deliver a presentation to the Board in January that should address the Board's concerns.

Lenny Loparto stated that as another year has passed since the issuing of this permit, he would like to see Mr. Good come before the Board with a more focused research plan.

Ed Bell moved to extend the Reconnaissance Permit (00-002) held by Neil Good for his East Falmouth/Mashpee site until the Board's public meeting scheduled for 30 January 2003. John Hoagland seconded. Eight votes in favor. One opposed (Kevin Moony). So voted.

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**D. Restoration Project**

Victor reported that he, David Trubey, and volunteer Chris Hugo were in the field for a recent magnetometer survey of Willis Pond in Sudbury to assist Restoration Project, Inc. with its search for the Babe Ruth piano. The survey, courtesy of John Fish of American Underwater Search and Survey, focused on an area of the pond that has been identified as the likely area of Babe Ruth's winter residence. The Massachusetts Environmental Police provided a vessel and operators for the survey. Victor noted that they might return to the site this winter to conduct additional survey work or to dive on the targets detected.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Richard Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 PM. John Hoagland seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone  
Director